



# *Quick Reads*

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## **Healthy Iowa Award applications now available**

Applications for the 2009 [Healthy Iowa Awards](http://www.wellnessiowa.org/healthyiowaawards2009.php) are now available. Sponsored by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Nutrition, the honors are considered Iowa's academy awards of wellness initiatives. Recipients will be recognized at a banquet on Oct. 1 at the Hy-Vee Conference Center in West Des Moines. To nominate a community, school, college, or visionary that supports wellness in our state and to register for the event, visit [www.wellnessiowa.org/healthyiowaawards2009.php](http://www.wellnessiowa.org/healthyiowaawards2009.php). The deadline for applications is Aug. 31.

## **Modernization update**

Thanks to the groundwork laid by the Iowa Public Health Modernization [Code Implementation Committee](#), Iowa stands poised to make the most significant changes to Iowa Code Chapter 137 since 1967. Recently the IDPH Executive Team reviewed a [draft proposal](#) for changes to this chapter, which governs local public health activities. Please look for your opportunity to provide feedback later this month. The department is also considering updates to Chapter 136, which governs the State Board of Health, to ensure integration with the [Public Health Modernization Act](#).

I recently sent out information regarding nominations to the Iowa Public Health Advisory Council and the Iowa Public Health Evaluation Committee. If you received an invitation as a member of a local board of health, the Iowa Public Health Association, the Iowa Environmental Health Association or the Iowa Counties Public Health Association, I encourage you to submit nominations by Aug. 12. Members will be announced later this month and meetings will begin in September.

## **Data Warehouse Update**

The Iowa Public Health Data Warehouse has recently reached two major milestones. After spending many months gathering information from the [Data Warehouse Lead User Group](#), planners finalized a document in July that spells out the requirements of a new public Web interface. This interface will be designed to enable the public to view and access public health data more easily. New functionality will include the ability to generate reports on a particular health indicator in a specific county, and the ability to make comparisons with other counties or the state as a whole. With this step now complete, the technical team can now start designing and building the actual data warehouse system.

Working as a quality improvement mini-collaborative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, [Data Warehouse User Group](#) members drafted several county health profiles that included the health indicators and demographic information needed to assess their community's health. Examples of health indicators might include the percentage of individuals who are overweight or obese, the percentage of lead poisoned children, or the rate of sexually transmitted diseases. Last month, representatives from each county involved in this important project came to a consensus on the content of the health profile, agreeing on demographic information and an initial set of 31 health indicators. Following a feasibility study these indicators will be made available for public comment.

## **IDPH program recognized by National Criminal Justice Association**

Congratulations to the IDPH [Jail-Based Substance Abuse Treatment](#) project for being named the 2009 Outstanding Criminal Justice Program in the Midwestern Region. The award comes from the [National Criminal Justice Association](#), which cited the Iowa program's solid record of effectiveness in reducing criminal recidivism and substance abuse. The NCJA also called the program an outstanding example of using federal funds to establish a program and local funding to sustain it. The Jail-Based Substance Abuse Treatment provides treatment and follow-up case management to offenders in Polk, Scott, Story and Woodbury counties through close collaboration by those counties' sheriffs, jail staff, and community-based substance abuse treatment providers. Nice job, everyone!

## **Medical home symposium, Sept. 18**

The University of Iowa, Public Policy Center and College of Public Health are pleased to announce the [Patient-Centered Medical Home Symposium](#), Sept. 18. I am honored to be part of a panel at the symposium that will discuss strategies to achieve patient-centered medical homes in Iowa. Special attention will be focused on redesign, reimbursement and incentives. Registration begins at 8:30, followed by the presentation of the 2009 Richard and Barbara Hansen Leadership Award and

Distinguished Lecture: Stephen Shortell, Dean, College of Public Health, UC Berkeley.  
For more information, visit <http://ppc.uiowa.edu/medicalhomesymposium>.

### **Homeland security conference, Oct. 6-7**

Registration is now open for [Sixth Annual Governor's Homeland Security Conference](#). Following a special free training session on Monday, the two-day conference will feature presentations on H1N1, social media, disaster planning by private industries, stress management for emergency personnel, security in agriculture, recent work by weather notification partners, and much more. The conference registration fee is \$125 on or before Sept. 21. For a complete agenda and more information, visit [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/conference](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/conference) or call 515-725-3231.

### **Reminder: NACCHO webcast on accreditation, Aug. 7**

Subscribers to news from the [Iowa Public Health Modernization](#) initiative will have heard about a series of webcasts hosted by the National Association of County and City Health Officials on the topic of accreditation preparation and quality improvement. The next webcast is this Friday from 1:30 to 3:00 and will focus on the revised, draft [Public Health Accreditation Board](#) voluntary national accreditation standards, measures, and documentation guidance for local health departments. Register at <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/hxukxcf0ti5>.

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*To everyone in public health and all our partners, keep up the great work!*

— Tom